

# MEMO

**TO:** Prevention Partnership Providers and  
Local Public Health Units

**FROM:** Heather Weaver  
Immunization Program Manager

**RE:** Menactra Shortage: Defer dose at 11-12 years of age

**DATE:** May 23, 2006

**Due to a national shortage of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Menactra®), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending that providers defer administration of Menactra® to children 11-12 years of age.**

Menactra® was previously recommended to be administered routinely to all children 11-12 years of age, catch-up at high school entry (15 years of age), and college freshman living in dormitories. Providers should continue to vaccinate adolescents at high school entry and college freshman living in dormitories. If possible, providers should track children ages 11-12 years for whom Menactra® has been deferred and recall them for vaccination when supplies improve. For more information about this issue visit: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm55d520a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm55d520a1.htm).

Menactra® from the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program is only available for children eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Children eligible for VFC vaccine must be 18 years of age and younger and:

- Medicaid-eligible or
- Have no insurance or
- Native American or
- Underinsured (insurance does not cover vaccinations). Underinsured children must be vaccinated with VFC vaccine only at rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers. Providers should purchase private supplies of Menactra™ to vaccinate adolescents with insurance.

Please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.